(vii) Concessional custom duty for R&M programme of power stations.

Announcement of National Electricity Policy

877. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government of India are going to announce the National Electricity Policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that the policy provide guidelines for competitive bidding in the power sector and also for captive power plants;

(c) whether Government have finalized the rules for captive power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The National Electricity Policy has been notified on 12.2.2005.

(b) Detailed guidelines for procurement of electricity by distribution licensees through transparent bidding process, as stipulated in section 63 of the Act, have been separately issued by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, captive power plants, including group captive, have been freely permitted. The Act provides that any person may construct, maintain or operate a captive generating plant and dedicated transmission lines. Further, under the provisions of the Act, every person, who has constructed a captive generating plant and maintains and operates such plant, shall have the right to open access for the purposes of carrying electricity from his captive generating plant to the destination of his use subject to the availability of transmission capacity.

Embargo on Indian garment exporters

878. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has imposed an embargo on certain Indian garment exporters for forging documents in regard to export of goods in excess of their allotted quantities under textile quotas;

(b) whether Government have taken action on the errant export firms and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken up the matter with US Government to lift the embargo since the quota system stand abolished from January 01, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The US Government has imposed an embargo in the year 2004 on exports of textile and garment products having a combined limit in US Group II category, as the annual level had been exceeded.

(b) Detailed investigation into the process leading to the imposition of embargo revealed that some exporters had wrongly utilised the visas issued in certain categories of items for clearing the exports of another set of items covered by Group II limits. Exporters having found to have misused visas were temporarily debarred from exporting under Textile Quota Policy. The Enforcement Committee has requested for further clarification from the US authorities, pending receipt of which the temporary debarment order remain in force against these exporters. A reference has been made to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for making a detailed enquiry into the whole affair.

(c) The Indian Government took up the matter immediately with the US Authorities to lift the ebargo since the quota system stands abolished from 1st January 2005. However by a Federal Register notice dated 13 December 2004, the United States announced that for shipments exported in 2004 that exceeded the applicable 2004 quota limit from WTO Member, entry will not be permitted until February 1, 2005. From February 1 onwards, entry will be permitted in "stages" at the rate of 5 percent of the applicable base 2004 quota limit every month, until all shipments in excess of the quota limit have been entered.

Setting up power plants in Uttar Pradesh

879. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up power plants in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the necessary action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?